

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 3, 2013

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Richard Reniere, Vice-Chairman
Philip Bean, Selectman Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Pat Collins
Richard Desrosiers
Joe Grzybowski
Timothy Citizen Jones
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson

Excused

Ginny Bridle
David Wood

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Committee made self-introductions

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Latimer welcomed Keith Noyes, Public Works Director, Chris Jacobs, Deputy Public Works Director, and Teresa McGinnis, Operations Manager.

Highways, Streets, Bridges & Lighting

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,962,270 for Highways, Streets, Bridges & Lighting.

Mr. Noyes discussed Administration. He said there is really nothing new in this portion of the budget. The only real change is the reduction made by the Board of Selectmen in Drug and Alcohol Testing. Mr. Noyes said the credit for \$15,000 under Reimbursed Maint. Labor is due to revenue received from departments for vehicle maintenance so that their vehicles no longer need to be taken out of town for that work. Mr. Noyes said the department has a computer program that tracks everything about each vehicle and schedules maintenance work. Chairman Latimer asked how many vehicles were being tracked. Mr. Noyes said approximately 150-200 vehicles.

Ms. Nickerson asked about the number of mechanics. Mr. Noyes said they have two full-time and one part-time mechanics. Ms. Nickerson asked if there was a percentage increase for employees. Mr. Noyes said there is a tentative agreement that the Selectmen have voted to ratify. The percentage increase is 3% for the first year, 1-1/2% for the second year and 1 % for the third year. Mr. Noyes said his employees have not had an increase for the past seven years.

Mr. Jones asked where the \$15,000 credit was coming from. Mr. Noyes said they have not separated it out for each department. Mr. LaBranche asked if the departments were being charged for both parts and labor. Mr. Noyes said they were.

Mr. Noyes discussed Paving & Reconstruction. Mr. Noyes said his biggest concern was the Town's investment in infrastructure. He said he has estimated approximately \$90,000 to do street paving and would like to get this back in the budget. The Board of Selectmen have transferred \$26,000 into the paving account. Mr. Noyes said he met with his staff to find other places to get more funds. The streets to be paved are Fairfield, Ruth and Belmont.

Mr. Noyes said there is \$55,000 budgeted for Storm Water Requirements. This is federally mandated. The Department hired a lawyer to comment. The last that has been heard from the EPA is that many towns have done this and the EPA has a huge amount of work to do before this can be implemented. Mr. Noyes said he would like to reduce this account to \$40,000 and apply the other \$15,000 to Paving.

Mr. McFarlin left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to reduce the Storm Water Requirements account to \$40,000.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

Mr. Noyes said he would also like to remove \$10,000 from Sludge Hauling under Tipping Fees to move to the Paving account.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to reduce Tipping Fees under Waste Water Treatment Plant from \$250,000 to \$240,000.

Vote: 11 yes, 1 no (Bean). Motion passed.

Mr. Noyes said he felt some funds could be transferred to Paving from Electric for the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$35,000.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to reduce Acct.4321.2.410 Electric from \$200,000 to \$165,000.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Bean). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, that the new subtotal for Paving & Reconstruction is \$86,700.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Bean). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer called for a break at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Noyes discussed Sidewalks & Curbs, Snow & Ice Removal.

Ms. Nickerson asked how much it would cost to repair sidewalks. Mr. Noyes said approximately \$26,000 per year for five to ten years. Ms. Nickerson suggested putting this in a Warrant Article.

Mr. Bean noted the bankruptcy in Detroit and said we are living in the new reality. Tax bills are increasing and there are larger issues than this. Mr. Bean said the Board of Selectmen looks at the big picture.

Chairman Latimer said she has an investment in this Town and does not want it to deteriorate.

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to increase by \$16,000 Acct. 312.4.730 Sidewalk Reconstruction.

Vote: 5 yes, 6 no (Bean, Gryzbowski, LaBranche, Lapham, Latimer, Reniere), 1 abstention (Jones). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the new total for Highways, Streets, Bridges & Lighting in the amount of \$2,022,270.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

Municipal Sanitation

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,363,980 for Administration.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Noyes discussed Solid Waste Collection. Mr. Jones said he felt it important to encourage the use of special data readers so that the Board of Selectmen can make policy.

Moved by Mr. La Branche, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$543,726 for Solid Waste Collection.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Noyes discussed wages at the transfer station. Part-time wages are up, but offset by a reduction in overtime wages. Ms. Nickerson asked if keeping the transfer station open on Sunday is the cause of the increase in part-time wages. Mr. Noyes said it was not. Mr. Grzybowski asked if it was an issue and Mr. Noyes said it was. Ms. Nickerson said overtime is being taken from full-time employees and that money is being used for a part-time position.

Mr. Jones asked about the department building the bathroom on privately owned property. Chairman Latimer said this issue has been resolved.

Mr. Collins left the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Chairman Latimer asked about the line item of \$130,000 for Sewer Line Maintenance since only \$23,000 has been spent so far this year. Ms. McInnis explained that many bills will be coming in before the end of the year. Most of the \$130,000 for this year will be spent.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,222,466 for Municipal Sanitation.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the total for Public Works Department.

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$5,184,736 for Department of Public Works.

Mr. Jones said he was going to abstain on this vote and wanted to say why. He said this has no reflection on the fine work Public Works is doing. Mr. Jones said he had a question about the appropriateness of the EPA putting mandates on the Town. Mr. Jones said the thing that really bothers him is when he sees in this budget as well as in the Parking budget that public taxpayer money is being spent to make improvements on privately owned property and the cost is being buried in various places. This is highly objectionable.

Hampton Budget Committee
December 3, 2013
Page 5

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary